

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 were presented in the application. Claims 1-4 were previously withdrawn from the application and claims 5-11 examined. Applicant hereby cancels claims 1-4 and 9-11. Claim 5 has been amended. No new claims have been added. Accordingly, claims 5-8 remain pending in the application.

Claims 5 and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Adams. Claims 6 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Adams. Adams discloses a golf tee marking system in which a golf tee is coated with colored coatings. The colored coatings are preferably a flat enamel-based paint, but may be made of a microencapsulated oil or water-soluble dye. Adams does not disclose how such microcapsules would be applied to the golf tee.

Applicant has hereby amended independent claim 5 to more narrowly claim a method of treating a tennis ball with a microencapsulated marking agent. The claim further recites that the microcapsules are coated with a heat or radiation activated adhesive and then applied to the felted outer surface of the tennis ball. The adhesive is thereafter activated to adhere the microcapsules to the outer surface of the ball. None of these limitations are taught or suggested by Adams. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 5 and claims 6-8 depending therefrom are patentably distinguishable over the teachings of Adams.

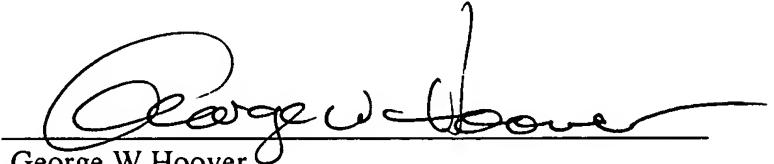
Claims 5-8, being the only claims left pending in the application, are believed to now be in condition for allowance and notice to such effect is respectfully requested at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully submitted,

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Suzanne Johnston

August 17, 2006
Date